

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application, all of which have been amended. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has indicated that the references cited in the specification should be provided to the USPTO in an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) to be properly considered.

The three references are:

1. JP-A 1992-219553 (JP-A 04-219553)
2. JP-A 2001-221301; and
3. U.S. Patent 5,013,289.

Such an IDS is attached hereto, containing JP 2001-221301, USP 5,013,289 and USP 5,106,352 (corresponding to JP 04-219553).

The Examiner has indicated that the Abstract should be corrected to be less than 150 words in length. The Abstract has been so corrected.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. In particular, the Examiner has noted that brakes are claimed in the respective second and third drive paths for braking the respective second and third elements, but has indicated that only planetary gear sets have been claimed to have respective first, second and third elements.

Applicant respectfully submits that the language in the claims need not be corrected, because the first, second and third drive paths are claimed to connect the first shaft to the first, second and third elements of the first and second planetary gear sets. Thus, the brakes may be

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utilized with any thing in the drive paths, which includes the first shaft and the planetary gear sets.

Claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 1, and the 35 USC §112, second paragraph, rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 USC §112, second paragraph, rejection.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-8, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure

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